

25X1 GACarver, Jr. Approved For Release 2004/07/08 : CIA-RDP80R01720R000500090047-3

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PRIORITY

SAIGON

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CITE DIRECTOR

1. WOULD APPRECIATE ASAP INTERIM REPORT ON YOUR VIEWS AND IMPRESSIONS DERIVED FROM YOUR OBSERVATIONS AND CONSULTATIONS WITH COLLEAGUES. WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE REPORT ON ATMOSPHERICS AND DEVELOPMENTS DURING VISIT OF WHEELER PARTY.

2. ALSO REQUEST, IN ADDITION TO DUTIES ALREADY IN HAND, YOU ADDRESS YOURSELF TO FOLLOWING TASK: HIGH LEVEL REQUESTORS WILL PROBABLY ASK FOR CONSIDERABLY MORE DETAILED INTELLIGENCE POST MORTEM ON RECENT EVENTS THAN INITIAL CUT MADE TO SUPPORT BRIEFING YOU HELPED PREPARE. IN ANY EVENT, A DETAILED ANALYSIS NEEDED FOR OUR OWN INTERNAL USE. KEY GENERAL QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED ARE: (A) DID OUR COLLECTION AGENCIES (NOT JUST STATION) FULLY EXPLOIT ALL ASSETS AND SOURCES FOR INFORMATION WHICH COULD HAVE BEEN OBTAINED OR MOST OF THE PERTINENT INTELLIGENCE WHICH WAS AVAILABLE ON THE TET OFFENSIVE, AND (B) TO WHAT EXTENT WAS THE EVALUATION OF AVAILABLE INTELLIGENCE SOUND AND DID COMPREHENSIVE EVALUATIONS REACH

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CITE DIRECTOR

TO

RESPONSIBLE COMMANDERS AND SENIOR OFFICIALS IN TIME TO ASSIST THEM IN  
TAKING APPROPRIATE ACTION?

3. MORE SPECIFICALLY WE WILL NEED TO KNOW:

A. WHAT INFORMATION OR EVALUATIONS REACHED J-2 MACV, GEN.  
WESTMORELAND ~~THE~~ AND THE AMBASSADOR IN THE PERIOD 15-30 JANUARY  
INDICATING THE POSSIBILITY OF ATTACKS ON THE CITIES? WHAT CAN BE SAID  
REGARDING THE ORIGIN, QUANTITY, ACCURACY AND TIMELINESS OF SUCH INFOR-  
MATION OR EVALUATIONS?

B. IN HOW MANY CASES OF ATTACKS ON THE CITIES AND TOWNS DID  
THE RESPONSIBLE FIELD COMMANDERS (US OR VIETNAMESE) RECEIVE WARNINGS  
THROUGH INTELLIGENCE CHANNLES IN SUFFICIENT TIME TO AVOID BEING  
SURPRISED?

C. AS YOU KNOW, MUCH IS BEING MADE BY THE PRESS OF THE  
ALLEGATION THAT DESPITE THE MAGNITUDE OF PRE-ATTACK VC TROOP MOVE-  
MENTS, THE CIVILIAN POPULATION NEVER ALERTED EITHER GVN OR US  
OFFICIALDOM TO THE FACT THAT SOMETHING FUNNY WAS GOING ON. TO WHAT

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CITE DIRECTOR

TO [ ]  
EXTENT DID THE VIETNAMESE CIVIL POPULATION GIVE INFORMATION TO THE  
AUTHORITIES (VIETNAMESE OR US) BEFORE AND/OR DURING THE ATTACKS?

D. TO WHAT EXTENT WAS THERE A FREE AND RAPID AND COMPLETE  
EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION BETWEEN US AND GVN AGENCIES BEFORE AND  
DURING THE ATTACKS?

E. INsofar AS IT CAN BE RECONSTRUCTED, WHAT PICTURE OF THE  
TOTAL SITUATION, BASED ON INTELLIGENCE THEN IN HAND, DID SENIOR  
OFFICIALS HAVE JUST PRIOR TO THE ATTACK ON THE CITIES?

4. WHAT WE OBVIOUSLY NEED TO CLARIFY (AND, WHERE POSSIBLE,  
CORRECT) IS NOT ONLY SHORTCOMINGS IN THE COLLECTION OF INTELLIGENCE,  
BUT ALSO SHORTCOMINGS IN THE DISTRIBUTION, COLLATION, EVALUATION AND  
DISSEMINATION OF INTELLIGENCE COLLECTED BY SOME COMPONENT OF THE  
ALLIED ESTABLISHMENT BUT NOT MADE AVAILABLE IN TIMELY FASHION TO

ILLEGIB OTHER COMPONENTS OR POTENTIAL USERS. THE CLASSIC CASE HERE IS

ILLEGIB [ ] -- THE SAIGON ATTACK ORDER -- ACQUIRED ON  
20 JANUARY AND NOT DISTRIBUTED UNTIL 31 JANUARY.

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5. WE REALIZE THE ABOVE ARE QUESTIONS NOT EASILY ANSWERED. WE REQUEST AN INTERIM REPORT UPON YOUR RETURN AND A FULL REPORT FROM THE STATION NO LATER THAN 14 MARCH.

6. PLEASE ADVISE YOUR FUTURE ITINERARY AND INTENDED ETA IN HQS AS SOON AS YOU CAN.

**END OF MESSAGE**

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